

**STATE INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (ICC)
ON EARLY INTERVENTION**

MEETING MINUTES

FRIDAY, July 26, 2002
Sacramento Red Lion Hotel
Sacramento, CA

ICC MEMBERS PRESENT

Raymond M. Peterson, M.D., Chair
Jim Bellotti, CDE
George Chance, DSS
Arleen Downing, M.D.
Rick Ingraham, DDS
Cynthia Jaynes, DADP
Hallie Morrow, M.D., DHS
Marie Kanne Poulsen, Ph.D.
James Queirolo, DMH

ICC MEMBERS ABSENT

Livia Faure-Gault
Nancy Lee, DOI
Martha Sanchez
Elaine Fogel Schneider, Ph.D.
Sharon Tettegah, Ph.D.

CALL TO ORDER

Raymond M. Peterson, M.D., Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.
It was noted that a quorum of ICC members was in attendance.

INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ICC members, community representatives, staff, and members of the audience provided self-introductions. Dr. Peterson thanked the Public Awareness Committee (PAC) for the development of the ICC Certificate of Appreciation and criteria for awardees. Dr. Peterson presented awards to those present and acknowledged each person who received an award and their dates of service to the ICC (see attached). Those recipients not able to attend the meeting will receive their framed certificate in the mail.

AGENDA

The agenda was reviewed and approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF MAY 2002 ICC MINUTES

The minutes of the May 2002 meeting were approved with minor amendments.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Dr. Peterson thanked DDS staff for preparing the comprehensive information in the ICC meeting packet. In addition to agendas and previous meeting minutes, the packet includes valuable information about recent reports and developments in the field of early intervention and how to access additional resource information.

Dr. Peterson acknowledged Dr. Marie Kanne Poulsen for having her work accepted for presentation at the 8th World Congress on Infant Mental Health in Amsterdam. He requested that she provide her Infant Mental Health presentation to the ICC in September.

Dr. Peterson announced that notification from the Governor's Office regarding appointments to the ICC is imminent. Persons interested in seeking appointment to the ICC should contact the Governor's Office to request an application.

Dr. Peterson reported that the California Budget Act has not been signed for fiscal year 2002-03, which began July 1, 2002. Dr. Peterson thanked the members of the ICC and community representatives for their commitment to work as a cohesive group during the past year. He encouraged all to maintain parent professional partnerships and continue to work with the Legislature to ensure adequate funding for programs serving vulnerable children and their families.

STAFF REPORT

Cheri Schoenborn reported that the next ICC meeting would be in San Diego at the Radisson La Jolla. This hotel has a three-day cancellation policy and the government rate is available until August 26, 2002. For reservations please contact the Radisson La Jolla directly at (858) 453-5500. Participants needing assistance with travel arrangements may contact Barbara Ferreira at 916-654-2767.

Ms. Schoenborn reminded participants that hotel receipts submitted with travel claims must show a zero balance in order to be reimbursed. Outstanding travel claims from last fiscal year that were properly submitted will be paid, although there is a delay as claims from 2001-02 fiscal year must be processed by the Controller's Office until we have a signed State Budget. ICC members and community representatives were reminded that if they require a rental car for the ICC meeting, they must obtain prior authorization from Ms. Schoenborn in order to be reimbursed.

The ICC packet includes additional website addresses (see page 4) and updated roster information (see pages 3, 5 and 6). Ms. Schoenborn requested that participants review this information and submit changes or updates to Cheryl Holden.

FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER NETWORK OF CALIFORNIA (FRCN-CA) REPORT

Mara McGrath announced that she has accepted a new position as the Project Manager of the Alameda County Medical Home Project at Children's Hospital, Oakland. Ms. McGrath will resign her FRCN-CA Chair position to Vice Chair Linda Landry, but will continue to participate on the Health Systems Committee as a community representative.

Ms. McGrath reported that thirty people attended their meeting held on Wednesday. Meeting participants included local child care planning council representatives from Stanislaus County and the Parent Links project. The meeting format has changed to support the activities of three subcommittees. The subcommittee topic areas include membership, legislation and technical assistance/training.

Ms. McGrath reported the meeting included a discussion with Rick Ingraham, DDS, regarding a revised concept paper developed by DDS to procure outside funding to support the infrastructure of the FRCN-CA with data collection and training. Mr. Ingraham requested that the FRCN-CA review a brochure on oral health and provide input to DDS. He also requested representation from the FRCN-CA for participation on the Health and Wellness Forum 2003 planning committee.

At the request of the Public Awareness Committee, the FRCN-CA will be sending representatives to each of the ICC's Newcomers Orientation meetings. Ms. McGrath thanked Kathleen Colvin for participating this time and noted that Julie Kingsley and Vickie Reese Allen will participate in the ICC's September Newcomers Orientation.

The FRCN-CA enjoyed a presentation by Dr. Lisa A. Croen, of Kaiser Permanente, Division of Research, about a research project of the U.C. Davis M.I.N.D. Institute, Center for Environmental Factors in the Etiology of Autism. The centerpiece of this program is the Childhood Autism Risk from Genetics and the Environment (CHARGE) Study. The study seeks to assess the influence of exposures in the environment, genetic factors, and the interplay between these two in causing autism or developmental delay.

Juno Duenas provided an update on the activities of Family Voices. Family Voices is in the process of developing a training manual for Health Liaisons.

The FRCN-CA also discussed linkages in the community. The FRCs would like to establish representation within the county California Children and Families Commissions. It was suggested that FRC representatives attend commission meetings in their local areas. Because 75% of the Early Start FRCs are SB 511 grantees the FRCN-CA is requesting that a representative be named to attend the SB 511 advisory body or "Hub" which is currently under development. The FRCN-CA will continue to keep the ICC apprised of the status of their collaborative efforts.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (COTW)

Dr. Peterson reviewed information shared at the COTW on the "Transfer of Knowledge" symposium on child care and acknowledged the work completed to date by the planning committee. Dr. Peterson provided a brief overview of the presentation by Ami Sullivan of XenologiX regarding the methodological review of the *2001 Early Start Program: Family Satisfaction Survey* and proposed next steps for the ICC.

PUBLIC AWARENESS COMMITTEE (PAC)

Zelna Banks reported on behalf of the PAC representing Co-Chairs Elaine Fogel Schneider, Ph.D. and Martha Sanchez who were unable to attend the meetings. The PAC continues to refine elements of the Newcomers Orientation flyer. Pat Hastings agreed to revise the flyer for the September meeting. The PAC requested the involvement of FRCN-CA members at the ICC's Newcomers Orientation meeting.

The PAC continues to clarify goals and plans for recruitment, mentoring and sustaining of ICC members and community representatives. They plan to develop a procedural guide and a handbook for current members to mentor new members. It was recommended that a liaison from the Family Support Services Committee work with the PAC members on adapting these materials. Hedy Hansen agreed to coordinate a conference call with the Family Empowerment Committee of the Federal ICC for assistance with adapting materials to the state level.

Ms. Banks reported that Rick Ingraham also attended a portion of the PAC meeting. Mr. Ingraham assisted in a review of child find products and activities. The PAC would like to develop recommended strategies for evaluating which products or strategies are effective as tools for child find and information sources once a family is in the Early Start system. Seven items were identified as priorities for evaluation:

- Parents' Rights Brochure
- Health Care Provider Brochure
- Traveling Display
- Starting Out Together
- Fact Sheets
- Public Service Announcement
- Referral Brochure

The PAC discussed the *2001 Early Start Program: Family Satisfaction Survey* and agreed that many of their questions and concerns were addressed during the question and answer session in the COTW. PAC recommends an exit letter be developed and sent to participating families explaining the results of the survey, and efforts being made to address the areas identified in the survey needing improvement.

The joint meeting with Health Systems Committee regarding outreach to physicians was deferred until September.

QUALITY ASSURANCE, PROGRAM AND PERSONNEL STANDARDS COMMITTEE (QAPPSC)

Dr. Marie Poulsen and Linda Landry, Co-Chairs, reported that the QAPPSC continued to dialogue with Ami Sullivan of XenologiX, Inc. and Ken Freedlander regarding the methodology employed in the *2001 Early Start Program: Family Satisfaction Survey*. A subcommittee consisting of Bridget Ammons, Linda Landry and Diane Kelligrew, Ph.D. performed a review of the report of the Family Satisfaction Survey, and identifying training and technical assistance implications based upon survey findings.

Dr. Poulsen commended Ms. Sullivan for her excellent presentation earlier in the day for the COTW and stated that many issues had been addressed during that presentation.

The Health Systems Committee joined QAPPSC for a presentation by Dr. Penny Knapp, DMH Medical Director, regarding the history and development of the Mental Health Screening Tool (MHST 0-5). Mary Jane Alumbaugh, Ph.D., and her assistant, Darcy Johnson, joined her in the presentation. The MHST 0-5 was designed to identify children in out of home placement who are at moderate or high-risk for needing intervention. The tool has been adapted for use by participating counties under the Infant Preschool Family Mental Health Initiative (IPFMHI), a CCFC funded project. The IPFMHI has developed supplemental sections to the tool that provides a cross walk for mental health professionals to link disorders in very young children described in Diagnostic Classification 0-3 to DSM- IV diagnoses. This link is important to establish Medicare eligibility and for billing. Dr. Knapp's power-point presentation is attached to the QAPPSC minutes.

The committee brainstormed possible topics for the Health and Wellness Forum 2003. Suggestions for the Early Start strand included:

- Risk and Resiliency
- Illinois mental health framework/model
- Linda Gilkerson as speaker
- Medical Home
- Parent Health Liaison Manual
- Record keeping systems for families
- Including Early Intervention information for Prop. 10 Parent Kit
- Relationship Based Services
- Early Intervention Personnel Model (EIPM) and Competencies
- Early Childhood Mental Health Competencies (ECMH)

Dr. Poulsen will share the committee's input on the Early Start strand development with DDS.

Cheri Schoenborn provided a brief historical review of the development and current status on the ESPM personnel model and early intervention standards. The ESPM was addressed and recognized as an important piece of service delivery reform and so noted in the SDR report required by the legislature. Due to budget constraints action on the SDR process has been set aside. It was noted that OSEP accepts the ESPM with its multiple pathways to early intervention competencies as a guide to the state's ongoing efforts to ensure that appropriately prepared and trained personnel are available across California. It was noted in discussion with the committee that while each vendored infant development program has standards to be met under State Regulations, there may be a lack of effective monitoring and enforcement. It was also noted that it is important the early intervention personnel model and standards be fully developed and ready for possible implementation when the fiscal environment is more receptive. The committee agrees it is time to look at the ESPM and competencies, update them, determine next steps, and show continued progress.

At the request of Dr. Peterson, the QAPPSC discussed the status of the FRCN-CA Chair as a voting member of the ICC. The committee requested the ICC Chair to appoint a work group to develop options and a process to formally acknowledge the FRCN-CA Chair as a voting member of the ICC.

HEALTH SYSTEMS COMMITTEE (HSC)

Dr. Arleen Downing and Julie Kingsley, Co-Chairs, thanked Dona Meinders of the WestEd Center for Prevention and Early Intervention for providing staff support to the committee in the absence of Shelia Wolfe.

The HSC recessed at 2:15 p.m. to meet with the QAPPSC to hear a presentation from Dr. Penny Knapp on the Infant Mental Health Screening tool. Details about this presentation can be found in the QAPPSC minutes.

The HSC reconvened at 3:15 p.m. and engaged in discussion with Eileen McCauley, DDS Nurse Consultant, about the Partners and Progress Matrix describing the current activities of the Wellness Initiative. Ms. McCauley discussed these projects and efforts in detail. A few highlights included:

- The Health and Wellness Forum to be held in October 2003, in San Diego;
- A web site devoted to providing information on developmental disabilities and health information, www.ddhealthhinfo.org developed in partnership with University of California, San Diego and the Center for Health and Improvement; and
- The DDS “health access” warmline (1-877-DDS-HEAL) provides information in both Spanish and English on how to access assistance regarding health care issues for persons with developmental disabilities.

The HSC continues to develop recommendations for outreach to pediatricians, community physicians and other health care providers, as well as review of existing materials and approaches. HSC would like to collaborate with other ICC committees to decide how to coordinate physicians outreach activities and products. It is possible that there are many projects currently occurring in regional centers, which are funded by DDS, that the committee could benefit from hearing about to prevent a duplication of effort and resources.

The HSC is beginning discussion and plans to address hearing screening and assessment practices via a review of current approaches and materials and consultation with DHS and CDE. The HSC participants agreed to bring resources and copies of materials for review at the September meeting.

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES COMMITTEE (FSSC)

George Chance, Co-Chair, reported that the FSSC was very well attended and reviewed the committee’s activities. It was agreed that the committee’s task list, known as the T-Grid, requires review and updating. The committee agreed to bring their recommended changes to the T-Grid for discussion at the September ICC meeting.

Terry Colborn gave a special presentation about Easter Seals Early Start Developmental Services (ESDS). The ESDS program has been providing services for approximately two years. Nearly 140 children are currently being served by a program budget of \$500,000+. The multi-disciplinary team serves a 13 county region. All therapists have access to a toll free telephone line that families can call for assistance during business hours. It is also equipped with a 24-hour voice mail. Additional information about the ESDS is attached to the FSSC minutes.

The FSSC reviewed the recently released *California Early Start Central Directory of Early Intervention Resources 2002*. The FSSC is considering developing a recommendation to the ICC regarding the expansion of the *Directory* to include additional resources of interagency collaboration agencies (i.e. county Children and Families First Commissions, Local Planning Councils, etc.). Expanding the listing may assist communities in building enhanced capacity to meet the needs of children and families of the Early Start program. Mr. Chance noted that the FSSC thought this recommendation would support the regulatory requirements for child find and services delivered in natural environments.

Sharon Rea Zone provided an update on planning for the *Transfer of Knowledge* Symposium on child care. The *Transfer of Knowledge* Symposium will be held on November 15, 2002, at the Doubletree Hotel in Sacramento from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. The critical next step is the securing of presenters and finalization of the day's agenda. CDPAC has been discussing the option of follow up through technical assistance from the California Children and Families Commission.

The FSSC took a more in-depth look at the *Early Start Program 2001: Family Satisfaction Survey* and would like to collaborate with the QAPPSC to determine where identified concerns are aligned and move forward with cohesive action. A list of questions was generated and is included in the FSSC minutes.

ACTION ITEM

On behalf of the PAC, Zelna Banks presented an action item to approve the content of California's Annual Report on *Early Start for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities and Their Families, July 1, 2000 – September 30, 2001*. After a brief discussion the ICC voted and approved the recommendation to certify that the ICC reviewed the lead agency's report for completeness and accuracy of its content. Dr. Schneider and Martha Sanchez submitted proxy votes of approval to Dr. Peterson. Rick Ingraham abstained from voting as DDS, as lead agency, prepared the report.

PUBLIC INPUT

Jean Brunelli of the Infant Development Association of California provided information about a conference called *Diagnostic Classification of Mental Health and Developmental Disorders (DC:0-3): Mental Health Services for young children and their families*. The DC:0-3 conference is sponsored by the Infant Development Association and co-sponsored by the California Infant/Preschool Family Health Initiative. The conference will be held in two locations: October 15-16, 2002, at the Westin Los

Angeles Airport Hotel, and October 17-18, 2002, at the Lionsgate Hotel in Sacramento. A copy of the registration packet is attached.

Ms. Brunelli also provided a “save the date” card for the Infant Development Association of California 11th Biennial Conference called *2003: Making Connections*. This conference will be held March 20-22, 2003 at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose.

Tony Anderson, Deputy Director of the State Council on Developmental Disabilities, reported that 20 agencies and programs have been selected to receive Community Program Development Grants under Cycle 2002-2003 funding from the State Council on Developmental Disabilities. A complete list of the applicants, program titles and funding amounts are available on the State Council's web site www.scdd.ca.gov

Terry Colborn reported that Easter Seals Superior California is hosting the Fourth Annual "A Taste of Sacramento" on August 9, 2002, from 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. The event will include an evening of exquisite food, wine and beer tasting and a silent auction with over \$12,000 worth of merchandise donated by local businesses. Advance tickets can be purchased now for \$40.00 each. All proceeds from this event benefit Easter Seals Superior California.

Mr. Colborn also reported the Easter Seals Ninth Annual Inclusion Celebration will be held in Sacramento on Wednesday, October 09, 2002, from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. The 2002 Inclusion Celebration recognizes the following outstanding role models who make a difference for individuals striving to belong to inclusive communities: Irene Arenberg, Terry Boisot, Linda Brekken, PhD., Randy Horton, Clare McDermott, Eileen Medina, Kim Olsen, and Pamm Shaw.

Dr. Jim Cleveland provided an update on his participation at a May 28, 2002 meeting of the Partnership Committee on Special Education. Dr. Cleveland represents the ICC and the interest of the birth through age three population in a multi-million dollar state improvement grant to improve special education services. Dr. Cleveland provide a copy of the workgroups recommendations (see attached).

Linda Landry acknowledged Mara McGrath for her “above and beyond” performance as the Chair of the FRCN-CA and wished her well in her new pursuits. ICC members and the audience applauded Ms. McGrath’s efforts as well.

AGENCY REPORTS

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES (DHS)

Dr. Hallie Morrow provided a brief update on the Newborn Hearing Screening Program (NHSP). Families of infants delivered at California Children's Services (CCS) approved hospitals which have been certified by DHS to participate in the NHSP are offered the opportunity to have their baby's hearing screened. Infants who do not pass the screening in the hospital will be referred for additional testing after discharge. DHS is contracting with Hearing Coordination Centers to work with the hospitals in developing

hearing screening programs, performing quality assurance activities, and to follow infants who need additional services. Effective July 15, 2002, Miller Children's Hospital in Long Beach will be serving as the interim NHSP Hearing Coordination Center (HCC) for southern California. Miller Children's Hospital is performing all the tracking and monitoring activities until a long-term contractor(s) is selected by competitive bid to perform all HCC activities in each of three regions in southern California. The HCC Request for Proposal was released on July 15, 2002 (see attached).

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES (CDSS)

George Chance reported that the Child Welfare Services (CWS) Stakeholders Group convened a Summit in May 2002, to share out the continuing work of the Stakeholders Group. In 2000, the California Legislature passed legislation that established the Child Welfare Stakeholders Group. Governor Davis asked Rita Saenz, Director of CDSS, to appoint this group of key child welfare stakeholders and charge them with reviewing the existing CWS system and making recommendations for its improvement. The Summit summarized Year 2 work and provided a platform for the field to provide reaction and input to this process. Year 2 work is summarized in a document titled *CWS Redesign: A Conceptual Framework*. This document was distributed to ICC members and can be accessed at http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/cdssweb/ChildWelfa_285.htm

Mr. Chance reported on the status of the CalWORKS/Child Welfare Services Partnership Project. The Project is a four-year, two phase project, which is part of the California Center for Research on Women and Families in partnership with DSS. In the first phase the Project worked with 59 state and county officials to develop policy and programmatic recommendations. Five workgroups developed recommendations in the following areas: Service Delivery Models, Coordinated Case Planning, Flexible Financing, Data Systems and Confidentiality, and Organizational Change and Cross-Training. On May 30 2002, CDSS held a conference, LINKAGES, on coordinating Cal WORKS and child welfare services to support families. ICC members received a copy of the final recommendations. Additional copies may be obtained by contacting Mr. Chance.

On January 1, 2001, California enacted a new law intended to provide for the health and safety of abandoned newborn children. The "Safe Arms for Newborns" law (Senate Bill 1368, Chapter 824, Statutes of 2000), authored by Senator Brulte states that "no parent or other person who has lawful custody of a minor child 72 hours old or younger may be prosecuted for child abandonment if he or she voluntarily surrenders physical custody of the child to a designated employee at a public or private hospital emergency room or other location designated by a county board of supervisors". The title of this legislation has been renamed "Safely Surrendered Babies" law. CDSS, in collaboration with California Children and Families Commission (Proposition 10), is launching a media campaign to increase public awareness about the "Safely Surrendered Babies" law. It is anticipated that print materials will be available in September 2002, and a television and radio campaign will follow later in the year.

Assembly Bill 636, Chapter 678, Statutes of 2001, (Steinberg), known as the Child Welfare System Improvement Accountability Act of 2001, is intended to improve outcomes for children in California's Child Welfare System. The main provisions and timeline requirements of AB 636 include:

- Requires CDSS to identify and promote the replication of best practices in child welfare in order to achieve outcome measures developed by the California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHSA).
- Requires CDSS to establish a Child and Family Review Service (CFS) Review System, by April 1, 2003, in order to review all county child welfare systems and maximize compliance with federal regulations for the receipt of federal IV-E and IV-B funds.
- Requires CDSS to suspend the current county review system as of April 1, 2003, in order to transition to the new system.

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG PROGRAMS (DADP)

Cynthia Jaynes reported that the Office of Perinatal Substance Abuse (OPSA) staff completed 33 site visits to Perinatal Programs in 16 counties. OPSA noted technical assistance needs including development of resources to accommodate children and obtaining specialized therapeutic services for children and families. The programs appreciated receiving the 2002 Early Start *Central Directory of Early Intervention Resources* and Early Start brochures. Several providers have requested additional information about Early Start.

In response to a Request for Proposal for Training and Technical Assistance to be provided to programs serving pregnant and parenting women and their children, and other women, DADP has awarded funds to the California Association of Addiction and Recovery Resources (CAARR). CAARR has an impressive pool of consultants available and will be conducting training sessions throughout the state. CAARR can be reached at (916) 338-9460.

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH (DMH)

James Quierolo reported that Cynthia Rutledge has been reassigned within DMH and he will be serving as the designee for Dr. Stephen Mayberg. Dr. Penny Knapp recently provided a status report on the California Preschool Mental Health Initiative to the California Children and Families Commission (CCFC). The Initiative is entering the second year of a two-year funding cycle.

There has been a significant increase in children and families accessing the Early Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) program. EPSDT is a component of the Medicaid program specifically designed to meet the developmental needs and health conditions of children.

LEAD AGENCY DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES (DDS)

Rick Ingraham reported that the 2002 OSEP National Early Childhood Conference will be held at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, DC on November 4-6, 2002. The goals of the conference include: gaining a better understanding of research

findings and practices; building relationships/linkages with others to promote collaborative work, parental options, and innovative programs and acquiring resources that will lead to implementing successful evidence-based practices. The 2002 Conference is intended for a variety of audiences involved in planning and delivering services to young children with special needs and their families. This conference is sponsored by the US Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). It was planned collaboratively with a Conference Planning Committee representing diverse interests and perspectives and the National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (NECTAC).

Mr. Ingraham reported on the status of Senate Bill 1096 (Ortiz). If signed, this bill would require CHHSA to contract for a study of early intervention services, to the extent that private or federal funding (or sources other than the General Fund), are available for this purpose. The proposed study would examine state and federal programs for children with disabilities from birth through age five years, and the eligibility criteria and services provided under each of these programs. The bill would also require CHHSA to report to the Legislature, on or before March 15, 2004, on the findings and results of the study, including options for expanding existing services available for young children with disabilities from birth through age five years.

Mr. Ingraham discussed the status of Service Delivery Reform. DDS and stakeholders, including infant development programs, have been meeting to discuss program sustainability and rate issues. The Service Delivery Reform Workgroup anticipates completing their final report in response to the Legislative mandate in the fall of 2002.

Mr. Ingraham provided information regarding the final version of Congressman Patrick J. Kennedy's (D-RI) Early Intervention Improvement Act which reauthorizes and strengthens Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Congress is scheduled to consider reforms to special education later this year. The bill proposes incentives for states to serve infants and toddlers at risk of developmental disabilities. The bill also places an emphasis on improved child find activities and linkages with other agencies serving children and their families. A summary of the bill is attached.

Information was provided about the Health and Wellness Forum 2003. Mr. Ingraham requested the participation of the ICC Committee Chairs in planning an Early Start strand for the Forum. He will contact the ICC Chairs to obtain their input.

Mr. Ingraham reported on the collaborative efforts of DDS, and the University of the Pacific (UOP) School of Dentistry to develop an Oral Health brochure. Efforts focus on the coordination of programs designed to enhance the ability of people with disabilities and their caregivers to prevent oral disease and consensus building regarding needs in the community. He also anticipates collaborating with the California Children and Families Commission, as they have expressed interest in developing an oral health brochure for their "New Parents Kit".

DDS staff met with Regional Center Chief Counselors to discuss training and technical

assistance needs of service coordinators. A comprehensive training curriculum is offered by DDS for Early Start service coordinators under the DDS contract with WestEd/CEITAN. Consideration is being given to identifying elements of the training curriculum that are applicable to regional center service coordinators for consumers over the age of three.

The Best Practice Guidelines for Screening and Diagnosis of Autism are in the final review process for release to the field. Training sessions for regional centers on best practices for the evaluation and assessment of Autism started in June 2002, and are scheduled to continue through June 2003.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (CDE)

Jim Bellotti reported that the 2002-03 Budget includes a 2% cost of living allowance for all special education programs, which is higher than that allocated to other categorical programs. The Budget also has \$1.7 million increase for family empowerment centers.

The CDE web site has been updated to include the final report of the President's Commission on Excellence in Special Education, titled "*A New Era: Revitalizing Special Education for Children and their Families*." This document will be used as the "blueprint" for the re-authorization of IDEA. Recommendations in this report include: replacing federal monitoring practices with a focused approach; reducing regulatory burden and increasing flexibility; utilizing federal special education staff more effectively; and expedited results from expedited implementation. The full report is attached.

The CDE website also includes a link for the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act. This document identifies those areas in the NCLB, which was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Bush in January 2002, that have implications for implementing IDEA. Also included on the CDE web site is a link to the Executive Summary of the U.S. Department of Education's 23rd Annual Report to Congress on the Implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. CDE's Special Education Division web site can be accessed at www.cde.ca.gov/spbranch/sed

Due to the hard work of the local education agencies and the CDE staff, the special conditions have been lifted by OSEP from California's Part B grant. CDE and DDS continue to collaborate to make the CDE verification process and DDS monitoring process under Early Start more streamlined and comprehensive.

CDE is currently involved in a major project to integrate multiple databases into one. A feasibility study is underway at this time. Further details will be provided as they become available.

ADJOURNMENT

With no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

APPROVED BY ICC – 9/27/02